

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1952

Thirteen

Community Papers Win High Praise



22,868 NEWSPAPERS—COUNT 'EM . . . Pressmen worked far into the night last Wednesday printing the first big combined issue of the Torrance Herald and its eight com-

panion newspapers. Shown here are the papers as they were piled up by pressmen to be counted into bundles for delivery to the various areas of Greater Torrance.

Response To Papers 'Terrific'

Advertisers, businessmen and civic leaders this week were acclaiming the response generated last Thursday by the publication of 22,868 copies of the Torrance Herald and its eight companion newspapers.

Either the Torrance Herald or one of its companion papers went to every home in Hollywood Riviera, Seaside Ranchos, Waveria, Pacific Hills, Lomita, Harbor City, Keystone, the Shoe-string Strip, North Torrance, El Nido and Central Torrance, giving complete coverage of the huge Greater Torrance shopping area for the first time by any publication.

Presses in the Torrance Herald Building at 1619 Gramercy Ave. started "rolling" at 7 p.m. Wednesday and the press run wasn't completed until nearly 3 a. m. Thursday—just in time to meet delivery schedules to the outlying areas.

Some interesting sidelights to Thursday's production—it took more than six tons of paper, or enough paper the width of a newspaper page to reach from here to Pasadena, to complete the press run.

Several thousand man-hours were spent in producing the paper and nearly 50 persons were employed full time in getting the paper ready for the newsboys and distributors.

However, last week's big task of putting out the Herald wasn't a "one-shot" deal. It will be repeated each week in pursuing the policy of offering the only blanket coverage of the Greater Torrance area.

The eight companion papers to the Herald include the Riviera-Seaside Sun, Waveria-Pacific Hills News, Lomita Light, Harbor City Herald, Keystone Courier, El Nido News, North Torrance Times and the Torrance Neighborhood News.



TICKET SELLERS . . . Campaigning for the South Bay Opera Association's "Mademoiselle Modiste" which will open tomorrow night, are Jacque and Gwen Fralley (they're twins), who are holding up the ticket board; and Celia Valenzuela, Donna Wolf and Ann Evans. All appear in the case of the show which will be presented at the Redondo Union High School auditorium.

Service Club Told Price of Free Press

Examples of the vigilance maintained by the nation's newspapers and the press of California were cited Monday night by John B. Long, "Mr. Newspaper" of California, as he addressed a joint meeting of Torrance's four service clubs in the American Legion Hall.

Long, general manager of the California Newspapers Publishers Association told of the expenditures made by the press as he drove home his point that "Freedom is not free."

"There is a strong move among public health officials to prohibit newspapers from publishing vital statistics. Outstanding would be the publication of births, deaths, marriages and divorces," said Long.

"Recently the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors attempted to pass a law banning the publication of any comic book showing scenes of violence. They attempted to pacify the newspapers by tossing them a mighty thin chicken bone which would have exempted newspapers. The newspapers would not take it, however, for in the move they saw a threat to the freedom of the press. The measure was defeated," the newspaper executive told the service club members.

"Last year the President issued an edict that no news of governmental nature would be given to the press unless it was cleared first through the top brass bureaucrats. It was

ironical that the President handed down his edict during National Newspaper Week," Long pointed out.

Long, who pulled himself up through the Fourth Estate, began his newspaper career as a police reporter. He was introduced by Grover C. Whyte, publisher of the Torrance Herald which is one of the 600 daily and weekly newspapers qualified as CNPA members.

Entertainment was provided for the meeting by the Los Cancloneros, choral group from Hollywood Riviera and Seaside Ranchos. Mrs. Thomas Mabin directed the group.

Master of ceremonies for the occasion was Charles E. Wallace, pinching for Paul Loranger, president of the Kiwanis Club—the host club.

Appliance Store Blaze Destroys Front Awning

A minor fire at the National Home Appliance Store, 1267 Saratoga Ave., destroyed an awning and cracked a plate glass window Sunday night. Fire Department records show.



COMMENDED . . . Marine 2nd Lt. Burt C. Simms has been awarded a Letter of Commendation for excellent service during the fighting in Korea. General Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., Commandant of the Marine Corps, made the presentation during ceremonies in Washington, D. C. recently. Lt. Simms' wife, Mary, is the former Mary F. Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manley H. Miller, 1624 W. 220th St.

THIEF LOOTS QUIET QUACKERS FROM YARD

Four ducks who couldn't be quacked if they wanted, were snatched from the front yard of Charles E. Johnson's home at 17095 Ardath Ave., he told police early Sunday morning.

Three of the silent ducks were little, one was big, Johnson complained.

Oh yes, the report said, they're the cement kind, ornaments for the front yard.

DRIVER HURT AS AUTO HITS POLE

A Manhattan Beach motorist was injured and an Edison pole shattered when Robert Host, 33, cracked head-on into a pole at the Sepulveda and Hawthorne Blvd. curve Thursday night.

Host was taken to Harbor General Hospital by an F&M ambulance, according to Officers D. S. Hamilton and Harvie Turrent.

His car was listed as a total loss.

Local Talent Ready For Operetta Debut

Mme. Cecile's gay hat shop will come to life again at 8 p.m. tomorrow as the curtain goes up on the South Bay Civic Opera Association production of the Victor Herbert operetta, "Mademoiselle Modiste," in the Redondo High School auditorium.

Booked into the Redondo and for a three-day run, the operetta has been cast and directed by residents of this area who are interested in musical dramas.

Taking the lead in the production is Lois Sellman, an airline hostess, whose part is understudied by Joan George, a Torrance High grad.

Bob Waters, a salesman, has been assigned the male lead.

The cast of 50 and the orchestra of 30 persons include many from Torrance and the Hollywood Riviera community.

Nadine Nickel, 1730 Arlington Ave., will portray the proprietress of the hat shop where much of the action of the musical is centered.

Keystone Crash Injures Five

Five persons were injured in a two-car crash at Vermont Ave. and Carson St. early Saturday morning. Officers said it appeared that a car driven by Donald R. Davis, 19, of 16226 Berendo Ave., ran a red signal and collided with another auto.

Taken to Harbor General Hospital with fractured ribs were Davis, Dolores L. Bell, 14, 94 W. Carson St., and Monte R. Clowards, 19, 1347 W. 223rd St. Treated for abrasions were Gerald N. Felando, 17, San Pedro, driver of the second car, and Donna Murrey, 15, San Pedro, who also suffered a lacerated forehead.

Both autos were listed as total wrecks.

Traffic Signals for 190th-Figueroa Okayed

Under an agreement approved yesterday by the Board of Supervisors, traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of 190th and Figueroa Sts. in the near future.

The contract for installation of the signals is with the City of Los Angeles which will contribute \$1325 toward the improvement.

This sum is to be matched by the county, and the state will furnish \$2650, making the total \$5300.

The signals will be maintained jointly by the city and the county.

Critic Lauds High School One-Act Plays

By ELSIE PESTOFF

The First Annual One-Act Play Festival, presented by Trop 1135, Torrance High School chapter of the National Thespians, was hailed a success by critics Jack Gariss, screenwriter for Cecil B. DeMille Productions, and Dr. James H. Butler, professor of drama at USC.

These noted critics were present at a reception given in the YWCA following the performance on Friday evening and, at that time offered their analyses, comments and criticisms of the three winning plays, which were written, produced, directed and enacted by the students of Torrance High School.

Great thanks are due Desmond Wedberg, teacher of drama, who has encouraged his students to write and submit their plays.

Mr. Wedberg acted as supervising director in production of these plays, giving his advice when needed, but left the main direction entirely up to the playwrights. He has stated that Torrance is to

his knowledge, the first to sponsor such a high school project in California.

"Little Innocents," a teen-age comedy written by Sandra Pestoff, was the first of the three winning plays to be presented. Dr. Butler pronounced this a well-written play, and said that the acting was good. Jack Gariss affirmed that Sandra had captured the teen-age spirit and managed to make her characters come alive. He said also that he was impressed with the play to the point of being carried away by it. He added that the writing of teen-age comedy was very difficult for most people to achieve, but that Sandra had done it well.

Next in order appeared "My Innocent Darling," a melodrama written by Jeannette Lopez and Jo Ann Benard. Dr. Butler questioned these authoresses as to just how they had written this play together. "We just took lots of fifth periods from Mr. Wedberg's class," answered Jo Ann Benard, "and wrote up our

characters separately, then compared and combined them." Dr. Butler acclaimed the good punch line and proclaimed that these collaborators had achieved very well, something that was difficult, and that called for a certain type of acting and characterization. He commented that the music had been handled well, and that the general effect had been good. Jack Gariss said of "My Innocent Darling":

"I was surprised and pleased at the spirit of melodrama captured. The final play was a satire on Shakespeare's great play, "Romeo and Juliet," and was written by Leo Melvold and Ted Lloyd. Dr. Butler said that this play had good attack and stage business. He commended Romeo for his use of the bed in the duel, and said that the fight scene was handled well. He also complimented the master of ceremonies, Jim Crain, for his general good work. Jack Gariss declared that he was amazed at the poetry, which was good,

not only in rhythm and in speeches, but which captured the renaissance period so very well.

"I especially appreciated this play," said Mr. Gariss, "because I work so much with historical drama myself. I was carried along with this story to the very end."

Both critics expressed delight that this unique idea for the encouragement of high school playwrights had been established in Torrance, and proclaimed it to be the first project of its kind in evidence here in California.

The main sponsor of this project is Rosemary DeCamp Shidler, radio and screen actress, who is well known for her portrayal of nurse in the Dr. Christian radio program.

Mrs. Shidler has donated the trophies for the winning authors, and also a permanent plaque to the school, on which will be recorded accounts of this and future contests. Mrs. Shidler was visited by the stork and their much lost sleep.

El Nido Civic Association Typical of Town Meetings

Reminiscent of Colonial New England town meetings during the summer and fall months, those of many present-day small towns. Members of these communities usually meet once a month to discuss ways and means of giving focus and significance to community life.

Such a community organization is the El Nido Civic Association, representing a four square-block community of home owners. The area is bounded by Hawthorne Ave. on the east, 162nd St. on the north, 161th St. on the south and woods and meadowland on the west.

At the March meeting of the association held Monday night at 7:30 in the El Nido Elementary School, E. Risdon conducted the first meeting of its term as newly-elected president of the organization, succeeding Jack Kelley.

Plans for improving the site of the community's proposed park and playground were discussed, and it was suggested that the park be used for activities such as square dancing, community sings, barbecues and its residents are invited.

El Nido Civic Association Typical of Town Meetings

Except for formal business, parliamentary rules were abandoned and the meeting thrown open for general discussion, giving everyone an opportunity to air his views in a friendly, relaxed manner and with an occasional apt witticism that drew chuckles and good-humored grins from the rest of the group.

Among those attending the March meeting were Mrs. Harley Coffey, the Phil Gardens, W. J. Chudleigh, Mrs. Margaret Ecker, the Fred Peemasters, Joseph F. Hassinger, the Jack Kelleys, Clarence A. Laney, the George Moreharts and association president and Mrs. Edward H. Risdon.

Meetings are held the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. The April meeting will be held on the 21st at the El Nido Elementary School. All community sings, barbecues and its residents are invited.